



BY: SECRETARY CAROLANN WICKS

It is my hope that the information on this Web site is helpful to you as a supplement to the Governor's statewide budget presentation by providing specific information on the Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2008 Capital budget request.

Our current financial situation required a serious review of the Transportation Trust Fund revenues. Our steady sources of revenues (mainly tolls, gas tax, DMV fees) have not been able to keep up with the cost of doing business and the tremendous growth this state has experienced. This situation will not improve and it is why we are asking that more revenues be dedicated to the Transportation Trust Fund. Along the left side of this Web page, you will be able to review what is being proposed, what our current challenges are and the list of projects that we are committed to moving forward with, providing funding is available. The entire 6-year capital program is also available here as our Draft Capital Transportation Program (CTP) Fiscal Year 2008-2013.

First, however, I'd like to talk to you about where we started, the progress that has been made, and then remind everyone that we are first and foremost an agency of good workers committed to the people of this state.

I know that since June of 2005, there has been much discussion about funding for transportation projects and services. I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I can tell you that since I became Secretary in February of 2006, my colleagues and I have worked diligently with many others to make sure our internal operations mimic acceptable business practices, and that our communication with outside partners is constant and transparent. As such, we have been able to show that the department is on a new path, where better communication with the General Assembly, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), state metropolitan planning organizations, counties and our customers ensure we are all on the same page.

In addition, as the Governor directed us last year, we assessed our financial management practices and procedures and have in place strategies to improve.

To be sure, all the work we have taken on internally is in addition to the quality work the men and women of DelDOT perform on a daily basis. Through my 24 years at DelDOT I have witnessed the people of this agency willing to change when needed, improve how we deliver services to the public and develop a team approach to solving problems. When the blizzards come, we plow. When a traffic light is out, we fix it. When a customer needs a bus ride, we provide it. When it seems residents will never agree to an alignment, we become diplomats. When questions are asked, we provide answers honestly and directly.

I hope you will take the time to view what we have presented here. Thank you.